

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated October 15, 2003, the Examiner raised a variety of issues, at least some of which were believed to have been met by the response dated March 15, 2004. Included in the Official Action was the Examiner's statement that dependent claim 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

By the present Amendment, claim 11 has been placed into independent form including the subject matter of claims 8 and 1 from which it depended. In addition, the subject matter of former dependent claim 3, which recites that a sealing treatment is performed on the surface mouth areas of the pores of the anodic oxide film and the pore diameters of the surface mouth areas are lessened has been incorporated into claim 1 with claim 3 accordingly being canceled. Finally, claim 8 has been placed into independent form. In view of these amendments, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable, since the cited documents do not disclose or claim identical or obvious subject matter.

As an additional matter, an Information Disclosure Statement is concurrently being submitted which identifies documents cited in a Search Report from the corresponding European application and which also provides a copy of the U.S. patent issuing from the application identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 31, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider such documents in connection with the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application,
she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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